

Application No. 10/613,587

Response to Office Action of May 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5, 7, 18, 21 and 22 are cancelled. Claims 23-27 are new. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 are amended. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-17, 19-20, and 23-27 are now pending.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found in original Claim 7. Claims 6, 8, and 9 are amended to depend from newly amended Claim 1 rather than now-cancelled Claims 5 and/or 7. Support for newly added Claim 23, 24 and 27 is found in original Claim 18 and at page 9, lines 24, to page 10, line 3, of the originally filed specification. Support for newly added Claims 25 and 26 is found at page 5, lines 18-20, of the originally filed specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendment.

Applicants thank Examiner Speer for the helpful comments within the outstanding Office Action explaining the reasons for the rejections. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Speer for indicating that original Claims 7-9 are allowable. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the embodiments of Claim 7. All pending Claims depend therefrom.

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Restriction Requirement

The Office has divided the claimed invention into two groups:

Group I: Claims 1-20, drawn to a thermal transfer sheet; and

Group II: Claims 21-22, drawn to a heat transfer method.

Applicants re-affirm the provisional election of Group I: Claims 1-20, drawn to a thermal transfer sheet, without traverse.

Drawings

Figures 1 and 2 now contain reference numerals 10 and 20 and are hereby considered by the Applicants as corrected. Applicants kindly thank Examiner Speer for his help and directions in this matter. Further, Applicants respectfully request that the Corrected Drawings be accepted.

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Rejection(s)**

The rejection of Claim 18 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the cancellation of this claim. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 23-27 have clear support and are clearly definite in light of the support found within the specification as discussed above. Applicants kindly thank Examiner Speer once again for his helpful comments regarding Claim 18 so as to afford Applicants the opportunity to clarify in the form of new claims as mentioned above. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

The rejections of Claims 1-6 and 10-20 under 35 USC §102(b) and/or §103(a), over Fu (2002/0009576) and/or Cole (USPN 6,582, 803) individually and/or in any combination is believed to be obviated by the amendment to Claim 1. Applicants kindly thank Examiner Speer for indicating that these above-mentioned references neither disclose, nor suggest, original Claims 7-9, which ultimately depend from original Claim 1. As mentioned above, original Claim 1 has been amended to include the embodiments of original Claim 7. In the interests of efficient prosecution, Applicants do not comment on the merit of the rejections mentioned above and reserve the right to pursue the originally-claimed subject matter at a later date in a Continuation and/or Divisional Application. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these grounds of rejection.

The provisional rejection of Claims 1, 4-6, 10-17, 19 and 20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over copending application 09/867, 227 (Fu) is believed to be obviated by the amendment above. Applicants kindly thank

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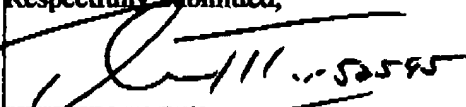
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Examiner Speer for indicating that original Claims 7-9 are allowable. Applicants have

amended Claim 1 to include the embodiments of Claim 7 which is not rejected over Fu. All pending Claims amend therefrom. In the interests of efficient prosecution, Applicants do not comment on the merit of the rejection mentioned above and reserve the right to pursue the originally-claimed subject matter at a later date in a Continuation and/or Divisional Application. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the below-signed by telephone.

Please charge the amount of \$1020.00 required for the request for extension of time to our Deposit Account No. 09-0525. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 09-0525. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

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Corrected Drawing

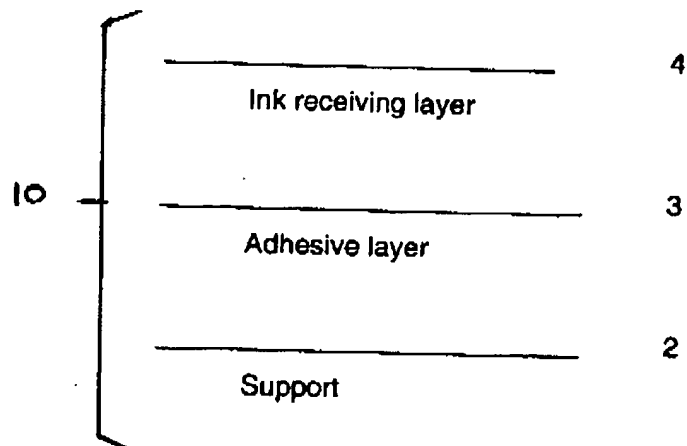


FIGURE 1

Corrected Drawing

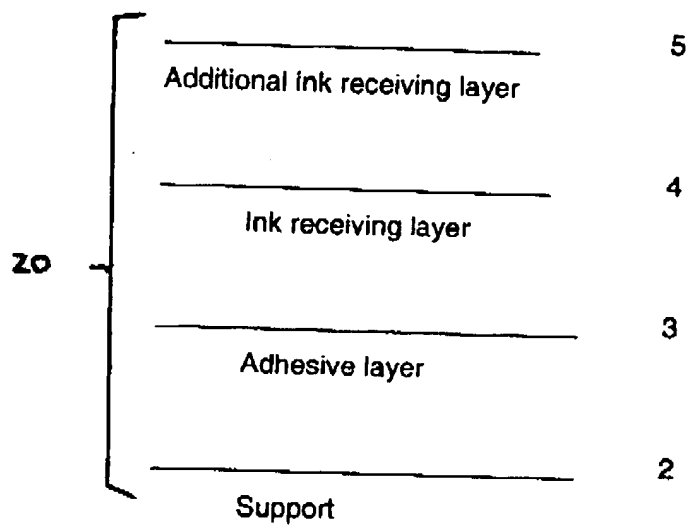


FIGURE 2